

**Commonwealth of Virginia  
State Board of Social Services  
Virtual Meeting**

**April 21, 2021**

**Attending:** Ms. Lou Ali (Chair), Mr. Clyde Santana (Vice Chair), Mr. William Boone (Secretary), Ms. Mona Malik, Mr. John Kines, Ms. Megan Miloser, and Mr. Kent Willis.

**Absent:** Dr. Danny Avula, Ms. Jennifer Slack, and Dr. Andrew Heck.

**Also in Attendance:** Mr. Duke Storen (Commissioner) and Ms. Ellen Malenke (Assistant Attorney General).

**Meeting called to order at 10:03am** – Lou Ali

Ms. Ali acknowledged the sad passing of MaryAnn Boyd, noting that Ms. Board was a dedicated member. Members joined Ms. Ali in a moment of silence to recognize her service.

**Review of Agenda** – Karin Clark, Regulatory Coordinator

**Comments from the Commissioner** – Duke Storen

Commissioner Storen thanked everyone for participating in the virtual board meeting. He acknowledged April is Child Abuse Prevention month and he thanked everyone for their on-going support and work. He provided local, state, and federal updates.

**Funding Allocation Workgroup Update** – Ida Witherspoon and Ryan Kelly provided an update on the Funding Allocation Workgroup.

**2021 Legislation & Budget Wrap Up** – Gena Berger provided the 2021 Legislation & Budget Wrap Up.

**COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments from the public.

There were no comments from boards and directors of community action agencies.

**Comment from the Virginia League of Social Service Executives** – Andy Crawford, President  
Mr. Crawford is excited about the new minimum salaries and he thanked Commissioner Storen, Chief Deputy Commissioner Berger, and other state staff for advocating for the changes. He is hoping the new minimum salaries will help with the turnover rate and attract new staff. He thanked the state with the Family First funding. He thanked Ryan Kelly, Ida Witherspoon, and Kim Conner for working on the state funding allocation committee. The League is working with Chief Information Officer Roland Rivera on advocating for improved internet broad-band connection for local agencies.

**Comment from the Virginia Community Action Partnership** – Jim Schulyer, Executive Director  
Mr. Schulyer spoke about the state budget provision establishing an interagency workgroup to develop recommendations for implementation of local criminal justice diversion programs. He also spoke about the adaptations made by community action agencies to the twin health and economic pandemics and what this may mean for the future of programs and services for people with low incomes and their communities. He also shared he will present his report to the community action network at tomorrow's Board meeting on 2020-2021, the year that America rediscovered poverty.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. Approved February 2021 Meeting Minutes**  
*On Motion Duly Made*, (Mr. Kines), second (Ms. Malik), motion to approve the minutes with all in favor.
- 2. 22VAC40-901, Community Services Block Grant – Fast Track Regulation**  
*On Motion Duly Made*, (Mr. Santana), second (Mr. Willis), motion approved with all in favor.
- 3. State Classification Plan, Occupational Title and Pay Band Structure for Local Department of Social Services – Increase Pay Band Minimum**  
*On Motion Duly Made*, (Mr. Willis), second (Mr. Boone), motion approved with all in favor.

**Update on Proposed 22VAC40-677, State Response When a Local Department Fails to Provide Services**  
– Gena Berger provided an update on Proposed 22VAC40-677, State Response When a Local Department Fails to Provide Services.

**Appointing Nominating Committee for New Officers** – Lou Ali  
Ms. Ali appointed Kent Willis, William Boone, and Mona Malik as the nominating committee for new officers.

**Board Member Requests for Future Information**  
There were no requests for future meeting topics.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:35am**